•564 661 The family of a prisoner was in a difficult and terrifying position. Often they had no means of subsistance, and in matters of earning a living they were considered enemies of the people. Members of such a family were not accepted for work, and those who already had jobs were dismissed on some pretext if not simply driven out into the street. The children of a prisoner suffered real tragedy as their situation was quite hopeless. They were refused admittance into middle and upper schools, and in the general schools they were expelled from all student organizations. The family of an "enemy of the people" was beyond the pale of the already limited Soviet legality. Neighbors and acquaintances kept away in such cases and refused to organize the members of the family. Everyone knew full well that there was no helping another's grief, and it was possible to draw suspicion upon oneself by having dealings with an enemy of the people. Such hard-hearted behavior should not be attributed to indignation and enmity toward the fate of relatives of an arrested man, but rather to an attempt to remain apart from it all or to escape the fate of the unlucky ones.

661 All the Belorussian commissars, their deputies, and many of the directors of trusts and other institutions were arrested. Others were appointed in their places and they themselves were frequently arrested in a very short time.

As an example the changes in the People's Commissariat of Public Education can be cited. After Platun's recall from the commissariat, D. Chernushevich was appointed in his place. Before being arrested he was dismissed from his job on charges of National-Democracy. He remained at liberty for two months and made efforts to get out of Belorussia to Rostov on the Don. This attempt failed. He was arrested after another month, and after a short while his wife suffered the same fate.

For a few months the Central-Committee functionary, D'iakov, an uncultured and half-educated person, was Commissar of Public Education. He was also arrested and Voronchenko appointed in his place. An engineer by specialty, young, energetic, and a Communist since Komsomol days he did not last long either but was quickly arrested. /63/ Uralova was the first one to stay at the job, being Narkompros during the war and still in that position not long ago. According to newspaper reports Uralova has now

[i.e. one arrested for political deviation - Analyst]